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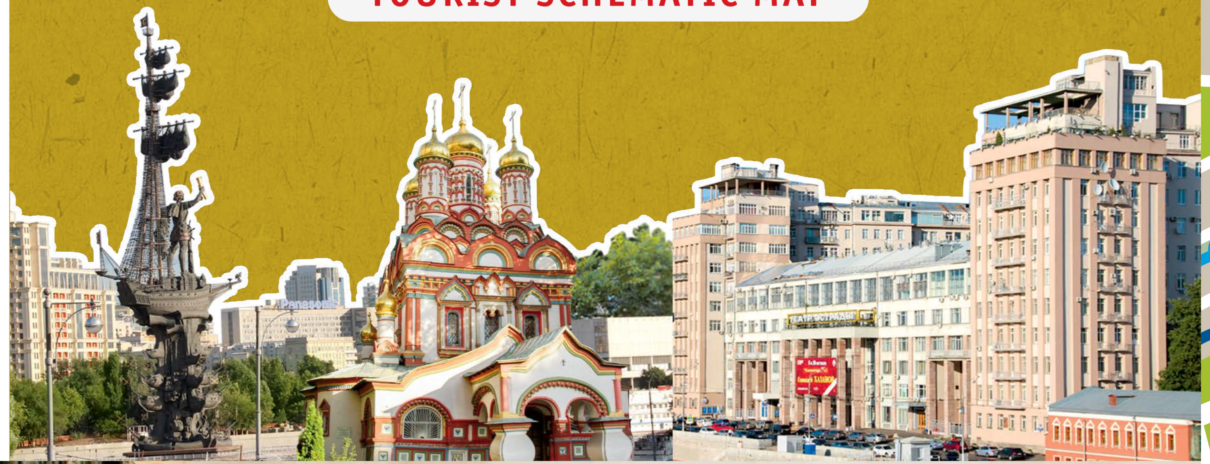
Yakimanka's Past and Present

TOURIST SCHEMATIC MAP



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Yakimanka's Past and Present

Published by the order of Moscow City Committee on Tourism and Hotel Industry
Contractor: Advertising Agency LBL Company Ltd 2 Ugreshskaya St., bldg. 25, 115088, Moscow, phone: 007 (495) 789-45-43, e-mail: info@lbl.ru www.lbl.ru
Printing House: Rozhdestveno Publish Ltd 31, 2nd Lazo St., Tver, phone: 007 (4822) 41-99-77
Run: 10,000 copies.
Not for sale.

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Yakimanka's Past and Present

The Cathedral of Christ the Saviour — Patriarshy Bridge — Bersenevskaya Embankment — Yakimanskaya Embankment — Krymskaya Embankment — Gorky Central Park of Culture and Leisure.

Route length is 3,500 m, area 2.5 sq. km. Timing (without visiting museums) is 2 hours

Yakimanka. The most part of our tour takes place in Yakimanka which is an ancient district named after its main street which, in its turn, takes its name from Joachim and Anne side altar of the nonextant Annunciation Church. There are quite a lot of historical buildings in this district, but we will speak first of all about modern ones. The tour will be enjoyed by those who are interested in the capital's cultural life novelties.

1 The Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. One of the most famous Moscow churches, the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, is the largest in Russia. The existing building was erected in 1995–2000. The cathedral which was the prototype for the new one was built from 1831 to 1883 upon the design of architect Konstantin Thon in memory of the war with Napoleon. In 1931, the cathedral was blown up. The Palace of the Soviets was intended to be built in its place. But the project was not implemented, and the excavation prepared for the construction was equipped for a swimming pool. When a decision was taken to build a church in its previous place, the existing underground space was used to build another church, the Preobrazhenskaya (Transfiguration) church. Guided tours around the cathedral complex are organized for visitors and the observation decks provide breath-taking views of Moscow.

15, Volkhonka St.,
phone: 007 (495) 637-28-47,
daily: 8.00–20.00

Patriarshy Bridge. The elegant foot bridge from the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour to Bersenevskaya and further to Yakimanskaya Embankment was built in 2004 and soon became tourists' and photographers' resort. From here, indeed, there is a splendid view over the Kremlin, the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, and the embankments on the opposite side. It is no secret that from this bridge Dmitry Medvedev's New Year speech was recorded.

Bersenevskaya Embankment. The ancient Russian word bersen means gooseberry; perhaps, this shrub gave its name to the bank where it used to grow. Besides, it is known that Bersen was a nickname of council nobleman Ivan Beklemishev, whose estate was situated here in the early 16th century.

2 Averky Kirillov's Chambers. Ancient chambers of the 17th century hardly ever looked good enough according to the next generations' standards; this is why they used to be demolished or their foundation was used to construct buildings in the modern style. Don't forget about the devastation caused by wars, fires, and floods. All these do not contribute to preservation of historical monuments. This makes the opportunity to see some of the preserved chambers with our own eyes especially valuable. These include the chambers belonging to Averky Kirillov, a hereditary tsar's gardener, merchant, who was granted the title of the clerk in the Boyars' Council. Construction was carried out in the second half of the 17th century; in the early 18th century, the house was given some renewals.

3 Church of St Nicholas the Wonderworker in Bersenevka Street, in Verkhniye Sadovniki. It is known that Averky Kirillov made a large contribution to construction of the stone church built in the second half of the 17th century. One can notice a slight stylistic similarity in these buildings. The church was severely damaged during the Napoleon war; it was at the point of demolition in the Soviet times. Now it has been returned to the faithful, services are conducted here.

4 The House on the Embankment. The residential complex was built in 1927–1931 for officers of the Central Executive Committee and the Council of People's Commissars, who used to represent the supreme power in the country. Further, the flats in this block were provided to those having certain merits to the state. Since 1961, the building has been housing the Moscow State Variety Theatre. In 1989, a museum was opened here that discovers the House's history and its inhabitants' fates.

2, Serafimovicha St.,
phone: 007 (495) 959-49-36,
daily: 10.00–18.30, Thursday: 11.00–21.00, day off: Monday

5 Red October. The residential complex was built in 1927–1931 for officers of the Central Executive Committee and the Council of People's Commissars, who used to represent the supreme power in the country. Further, the flats in this block were provided to those having certain merits to the state. Since 1961, the building has been housing the Moscow State Variety Theater. In 1989, a museum was opened here that discovers the House's history and its inhabitants' fates.

6 The Monument to Peter the Great. The official name of one of the most disputable and criticized monuments in Moscow is the Monument in Commemoration of the 300 Years of the Russian Navy by sculpturer Zurab Tsereteli. It was erected in 1997 in an artificial island. It is 98 meters high which makes it the highest Russian monument.

7 Lumiere Brothers' Center of Photography. The overall obsession by photography is quite natural: modern equipment and software allow even non-professionals to make interesting shots. Nevertheless, masters remain whose pieces of work are distinguished among others and attract attention. You can familiarize yourself with the phenomenon of photo as art in Lumiere Brothers' Center of Photography existing since 2010.

3, Bolotnaya Emb., bldg. 1,
phone: 007 (495) 228-98-78,
daily: 12.00–21.00, Saturday, Sunday: 11.00–21.00,
day off: Monday

8 Muzeon Park of Arts. It was founded in 1992 and became the park of arts due to its proximity to the State Tretyakov Gallery и the Central House of Artists. Dismounted Moscow monuments to communist leaders were brought here. For some time the open air collection of sculptures did not have any clear concept, but now the situation is changing. This cozy place with over 700 monumental art works in different genres was instantly appreciated by Moscowites and guests of the city.

9 The Central House of Artists and the State Tretyakov Gallery. The building constructed in 1979 shelters under its roof the renowned exhibition center of the Central House of Artists and the 20th Century Art exhibition of the Tretyakov Gallery. Whenever you come, you will enjoy interesting exhibitions or cultural events.

10, Krymsky Val St.,
phone: 007 (499) 230-77-88,
daily: 10.00–19.30, day off: Monday

Krymsky Bridge. This unusual cable bridge was opened in 1938 and soon became one of Moscow's brightest symbols. Its design features interesting images, for example its pylons are designed as rostral columns.

Gorky Central Park of Culture and Leisure. The Park was opened in 1928 and became a symbol of the happy Soviet childhood for long. **10 The central entrance,** made in a sonorous, even rousing style (architect Vladimir Shchuko) is a sample of architecture embodying the entire epoch in the history of our country. In Gorky Park of the Soviet times, there were attractions for children, exhibition booths, a fountain, and flower beds. Since 90s of the preceding century, the Park has changed to some extent, and not all the changes do good to it. The revamped Park appeared to its visitors upon reconstruction in 2011. Entrance became free again, and it is also 24/7. New, up-to-date attractions for kids and adults became available: bikes and pedal cars hire, ping-pong tables, tennis and badminton courts, a rink, boat stations with pedal boats and catamarans hire at Pionersky and Golitsinsky ponds. Here, you will find a color-and-light musical fountain, programs for kids, and for the elder ones — free Wi-Fi, 'Olive Beach' for 500 visitors, free classes in fitness, dances, Yoga, and Qigong. And many, many other things.